

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A picture encoding system conversion device comprising:

a decoder receiving picture codes, compressed in information volume, from a reception side transmission channel via an input buffer and expanding the received picture codes to
5 output expanded picture codes;

an encoder compressing the picture codes, decoded by said decoder, in information volume, to generate picture codes to output generated picture codes from an output buffer to a sending side transmission channel; and

10 a transcoder controller controlling said encoder;

wherein

said transcoder controller includes

an input buffer monitor monitoring said input buffer of said decoder;

15 an output buffer monitor monitoring said output buffer of said encoder; and

a quantization step controller modifying a quantization step in compression processing of said encoder based on the information from said input buffer monitor and said output
20 buffer monitor.

2. The picture encoding system conversion device as defined in claim 1,

wherein

said decoder includes a variable length a decoder unit;

-5 said transcoder controller further includes a decoder
monitor monitoring said variable length decoder unit;

 said quantization step controller modifying the
quantization step of said encoder based on the information from
said input buffer monitor, said output buffer monitor and the
10 decoder monitor.

3. The picture encoding system conversion device as defined in
claim 1,

 wherein

 said transcoder controller includes a reception side
transmission channel monitor monitoring the state of said
receiving side transmission channel, and

 a sending side transmission channel monitor monitoring the
state of said sending side transmission channel;

 said quantization step controller modifying the
10 quantization step of said encoder based on the information from
said input buffer monitor, said output buffer monitor, the
reception side transmission channel monitor and the sending side
transmission channel monitor.

4. The picture encoding system conversion device as defined in
claim 1,

 wherein

 said decoder includes a variable length decoding unit;

5 said transcoder controller further includes a decoder
monitor monitoring said variable length decoding unit,

a reception side transmission channel monitor monitoring the state of said reception side transmission channel, and

a sending side transmission channel monitor monitoring the state of said sending side transmission channel;

said quantization step controller modifying the quantization step of said encoder based on the information from said input buffer monitor, said output buffer monitor, said decoder monitor, the reception side transmission channel monitor and the sending side transmission channel monitor.

5. A code rate conversion device comprising:

a code rate conversion unit receiving picture codes compressed in information volume from a reception side transmission channel by an input buffer, converting the code rate of the picture codes and subsequently sending out the resultant picture codes through an output buffer to a sending side transmission channel; and

a transcoder controller controlling said code rate;

wherein

said transcoder controller includes an input buffer monitor monitoring said input buffer;

output buffer monitor monitoring the output buffer; and

a quantization step controller modifying a quantization step in compression processing of said code rate conversion unit based on the information from said input buffer monitor and said output buffer monitor.

6. The code rate conversion device as defined in claim 5

wherein

said code rate conversion unit includes a variable length decoding unit;

5 said transcoder controller includes a decoder monitor monitoring said variable length decoding unit;

said quantization step controller modifying the quantization step of the code rate conversion unit based on the information from said input buffer monitor, said output buffer monitor and said decoder monitor.

7. The code rate conversion device as defined in claim 5

wherein

said transcoder controller further includes a reception side transmission channel monitor monitoring the state of said reception side transmission channel; and

5 a sending transmission channel monitor monitoring the state of said sending out transmission channel;

said quantization step controller modifying the quantization step of the code rate conversion unit based on the information from said input buffer monitor, said output buffer monitor, the reception side transmission channel monitor and the sending side transmission channel monitor.

8. The code rate conversion device as defined in claim 5

wherein

said code rate conversion unit includes a variable length

decoding unit;

5 said transcoder controller includes a decoder monitor
monitoring said variable length decoding unit, a reception
transmission channel monitor monitoring the state of said
reception side transmission channel and a sending transmission
channel monitor monitoring the state of said a sending out
10 transmission channel;

 said quantization step controller modifying a quantization
step of said code rate conversion unit based on the information
from said input buffer monitor, said output buffer monitor, said
decoder monitor, the reception side transmission channel
15 monitor and the sending side transmission channel monitor.

9. An encoding system conversion device for converting a signal
encoded in one encoding system into a signal of another encoding
system, comprising:

 a decoder unit being fed with a compression-coded signal
5 in an input buffer to decode the signal in a variable length
decoder;

 an encoder unit being fed with a signal output from said
decoder unit, having an orthogonal transform unit orthogonally
transforming the input signal, having a quantizer quantizing
10 coefficients resulting from the orthogonal transform unit, and
having a variable length encoder compression-encoding the
quantized coefficients to output the compression-coded
quantized coefficients from an output buffer; and

a transcoder controller having:

15 means for monitoring at least the state of said output buffer, and

means for modifying a quantization step in said quantizer

(a) to decrease the code volume generated in said encoder if the stored volume in said output buffer exceeds a preset value to produce overflow, and for modifying the quantization step in
20 said quantizer (b) to decrease the code volume generated in said encoder if the stored volume in said output buffer is not up to said preset value to produce underflow.

10. An encoding system conversion device for converting a signal encoded in one encoding system into a signal of another encoding system, comprising:

a decoder unit being fed with a compression-coded signal
5 in an input buffer to decode the signal in a variable length decoder;

an encoder unit being fed with a signal output from said decoder unit, having an orthogonal transform unit orthogonally transforming the input signal, having a quantizer quantizing
10 coefficients resulting from the orthogonal transformation, having a variable length encoder compression-encoding the quantized coefficients and having an output buffer outputting compression-coded quantized coefficients to the sending side transmission channel;

15 an input buffer monitor monitoring the state of said input

buffer;

an output buffer monitor monitoring the state of said output buffer;

means for acquiring the information of said reception side transmission channel and the information of said sending side transmission channel; and

a transcoder controller unit having a quantization step controller;

said quantization step controller variably controlling a quantization step of said quantizer, from the monitoring information for said input buffer and the monitoring information for said output buffer, based on the code volume per processing unit upon converting the picture encoding system, said variably controlling being performed in a fashion:

(a) that, if the band of said reception side transmission channel is equal to that of said sending side transmission channel, the pre-conversion code volume will be equal to the post-conversion code volume, and

(b) that, if the band of said reception side transmission channel is different from that of said sending side transmission channel, the post-conversion code volume will coincide with the pre-conversion code volume multiplied with a ratio between bands of said reception side transmission channel and said sending side transmission channel.

11. The encoding system conversion device as defined in claim

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wherein

said transcoder controller unit further includes a decoder
5 monitor fed with encoding parameters output from said variable
length decoder;

said quantization step controller determining the
quantization step of said quantizer using said encoding
parameters.

12. The encoding system conversion device as defined in claim
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wherein

said transcoder controller unit further includes a decoder
5 monitor fed with encoding parameters output from said variable
length decoder;

said quantization step controller determining the
quantization step of said quantizer using said encoding
parameters.

13. The encoding system conversion device as defined in claim
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wherein

the quantization step of said quantizer is finely adjusted,
5 with the quantization step output from said decoder monitor, as
an initial value, responsive to the state of said output buffer,
pre-conversion code volume and said post-conversion code
volume.

14. The encoding system conversion device as defined in claim
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wherein

the quantization step of said quantizer is finely adjusted,
5 with the quantization step output from said decoder monitor, as
an initial value, responsive to the state of said output buffer,
pre-conversion code volume and said post-conversion code
volume.

15. A code rate conversion device for converting a signal
encoded in one encoding system into a signal of another encoding
system, comprising:

a code rate conversion unit and a transcoder controller;
5 said code rate conversion unit at least including:
an input buffer fed from a reception side transmission
channel with a signal compressed in information volume,

a variable length decoder decoding the signal,

an inverse quantizer inverse-quantizing an output of said
10 variable length decoder,

an adder directly outputting an output of said inverse
quantizer or outputting a value corresponding to said inverse
quantizer output minus an orthogonal transformed difference
between a current picture and a preceding frame picture,

15 a quantizer quantizing an output of said adder, and
a variable length decoder,

said code rate conversion unit sending out a code rate

converted signal from the output buffer; and

said transcoder controller having:

20 an output buffer monitor monitoring at least the state of said output buffer,

a quantization step modifier modifying a quantization step in said quantizer to decrease generating code volume if the stored volume in said output buffer exceeds a preset value resulting in overflow,

25 said modifier modifying the quantization step in said quantizer to decrease generating code volume if the stored volume in said output buffer is not up to said preset value resulting in underflow.

16. A code rate conversion device for converting a signal encoded in one encoding system into a signal of another encoding system, comprising:

(a) a code rate conversion unit at least including: (a1) 5 an input buffer fed from a reception side transmission channel with a signal compressed in information volume, (a2) a variable length decoder decoding the signal, (a3) an inverse quantizer inverse-quantizing an output of said variable length decoder, (a4) an adder directly outputting an output of said inverse 10 quantizer or outputting a value corresponding to said inverse quantizer output minus an orthogonal transformed difference between a current picture and a preceding frame picture, (a5) a quantizer quantizing an output of said adder, and (a6) a

variable length decoder, said code rate conversion unit sending
15 out a code rate converted signal from the output buffer;

(b) an input buffer monitor monitoring the state of said
input buffer;

(c) an output buffer monitor monitoring the state of said
output buffer;

20 (d) means for acquiring information on said reception side
transmission channel and information on said sending side
transmission channel; and

(e) a transcoder controller having a quantization step
controller;

25 said quantization step controller variably controlling a
quantization step of said quantizer, from the monitoring
information for said input buffer and the monitoring information
for said output buffer, based on the code volume per processing
unit in converting the picture encoding system, so that, if a
30 band of said reception side transmission channel is equal to that
of said sending side transmission channel, the pre-conversion
code volume will be equal to the post-conversion code volume,
and so that, if a band of said reception side transmission
channel is different from that of said sending side transmission
35 channel, the post-conversion code volume will coincide with the
pre-conversion code volume multiplied with a ratio between the
band of said reception side transmission channel and the band
of said sending side transmission channel.

17. The code rate conversion device as defined in claim 15
wherein

said transcoder controller further includes a decoder
monitor having encoding parameters output from said variable
5 length decoder as an input;

said quantization step controller determining the
quantization step of said quantizer using said encoding
parameters.

18. The code rate conversion device as defined in claim 16
wherein

said transcoder controller further includes a decoder
monitor having encoding parameters output from said variable
5 length decoder as an input;

said quantization step controller determining the
quantization step of said quantizer using said encoding
parameters.

19. A picture code rate conversion device comprising:

(a) a decoder, (b) an encoder and (c) a transcoder
controller;

said decoder (a) including:

5 (a1) an input buffer unit receiving compression-coded
picture codes from a reception side transmission channel;

(a2) a variable length decoder decoding picture codes of
said input buffer unit;

(a3) a first IDCT unit inverse-discrete-cosine-

10 transforming an output of said variable length decoder;

(a4) a first adder on one input end of which an output of said first IDCT unit is fed;

(a5) a first frame memory unit receiving and memorizing an output of said first adder; and

15 (a6) a first motion compensation prediction unit receiving an output of said variable length decoder and an output of said first frame memory unit;

said encoder (b) including

20 (b1) a second adder receiving, at one input end thereof, an output of said decoder;

(b2) a DCT unit discrete-cosine-transforming an output of said second adder;

(b3) a quantizer quantizing an output of said DCT unit;

25 (b4) a variable-length encoder receiving an output of said quantizer;

(b5) an output buffer receiving an output of said variable length decoder to output this output to a sending side transmission channel;

30 (b6) a second inverse quantizer inverse-quantizing an output of said quantizer;

(b7) a second IDCT unit inverse-discrete-cosine-transforming an output of said second inverse quantizer;

(b8) a third adder receiving, at an input end thereof, an output of said second IDCT unit;

35 (b9) a second frame memory unit receiving and memorizing
an output of said third adder; and

(b10) a second motion compensation prediction receiving an
output of said second frame memory unit and an output of said
first motion compensation prediction unit;

40 (b11) an output of said second motion compensation
prediction unit being fed to the other input end of said second
and third adder; and

said transcoder (c) controller including:

45 (c1) an encoder receiving, at the other input ends of said
second and third adders thereof, an output of said second motion
compensation prediction unit;

(c2) an input buffer monitor monitoring said input buffer;
output buffer monitor monitoring said output buffer; and
a quantization step controller variably controlling a
50 quantization step of said quantizer of said encoder based on the
monitoring information output from said input buffer monitor and
said output buffer monitor.

20. The picture code rate conversion device as defined in claim
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wherein

5 said transcoder controller further includes at least one
selected from the group consisting of a reception channel
monitor monitoring one of said reception side transmission
channel, a sending channel monitor monitoring said sending side

transmission channel and a variable length decoder monitor
receiving encoding parameters output from said variable length
10 decoder to monitor said variable length decoder;

said quantization step controller variably controlling the
quantization step of said quantizer of said encoder based on the
monitoring information output from said respective monitors.

21. A picture code rate conversion device comprising:

(a) a coding rate conversion unit and (b) a transcoder
controller unit;

said coding rate conversion unit (a) including:

5 (a1) an input buffer unit receiving a signal from a
reception side transmission channel;

(a2) a variable length decoding unit decoding picture codes
of said input buffer unit;

(a3) a first IDCT unit inverse-discrete-cosine-
10 transforming an output of said first variable length decoder;

(a4) a first adder on one input end of which an output of
said first IDCT unit is fed;

(a5) a quantizer quantizing an output of said first adder;

(a6) a variable length encoder encoding an output of said
15 quantizer to output an encoded signal;

(a7) an output buffer receiving the encoded signal from
said variable length encoder to output a resulting output to a
sending side transmission channel;

(a8) a second inverse quantizer inverse-quantizing an

20 output of said quantizer;

(a9) a second adder subtracting an output of said first adder from an output of said second inverse quantizer to output a resulting difference signal;

25 (a10) an IDCT unit receiving an output of said second adder as an input;

(a11) a frame memory unit receiving and storing an output of said IDCT unit;

30 (a12) a difference calculating unit taking a difference between a current picture output from said variable length decoding unit and a picture one frame before from said frame memory unit; and

(a13) a DCT unit receiving an output of said difference calculating unit as an input;

35 (a14) wherein said first adder outputs a value obtained by subtracting an output of said IDCT from an output of said first inverse quantizing unit;

said transcoder controller unit (b) including:

(b1) an input buffer monitor monitoring said input buffer;

40 (b2) an output buffer monitor monitoring said output buffer; and

(b3) quantization step controller variably controlling a quantization step of said quantizer of said encoder based on the monitoring information output from said input buffer monitor and said output buffer monitor.

22. The code rate conversion device as defined in claim 18
wherein

said transcoder controller unit further includes a
reception channel monitor monitoring one of said reception side
transmission channel, a said reception side transmission
5 channel, a sending channel monitor monitoring said sending side
transmission channel, and a variable length decoder receiving
encoding parameters output from said variable length decoder to
monitor said variable length decoder;

10 said quantization step controller variably controlling a
quantization step of said quantizer of said encoder based on the
monitoring information output from said respective monitors.